

August 7, 2009

The Glastonbury Town Council
2155 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Re: Town Manager's Report

Dear Council Members:

The following will keep you up-to-date on various topics:

1. Tryon Farms PAD:

This proposal is scheduled for Council public hearing at the September 8, 2009 meeting. A question was asked by Mr. Osgood concerning the affordable housing component of this application in relation to applicable Building-Zone Regulations. A summary will be available Tuesday evening and with background information for the public hearing.

2. Energy Conservation:

Glastonbury recently participated in a multi-town discussion concerning energy efficiency initiatives and programs. I am pleased to advise that Glastonbury has identified, completed or working to implement essentially all applicable options. This includes fleet, buildings and work practices. As you know, energy conservation-efficiency is a long-standing goal and commitment of Glastonbury and results are positive. I am often contacted to discuss Glastonbury's successes. I have scheduled a presentation and report on energy efficiency – Green Initiatives for a September Council meeting.

3. GHS Pressbox:

This project continues on schedule and within budget. The building and improvements should be "turned over" to the Board of Education the week of September 14th. The first varsity home football game is Friday, September 25th.

4. GovDeals

In late 2006 Glastonbury began using this on-line marketplace for advertising and sale of surplus vehicles and equipment. This allows Glastonbury to secure highly competitive bids for available items. To date, sale revenue totals approximately \$103,000 with over \$15,000 received for the most recent sale of various vehicles and equipment. The process is working quite well and provides further evidence of ongoing efforts to manage Town finances.

5. Country Club Road:

At the July 28th meeting, a question was asked on the opportunity to extend a multi-purpose trail between the 2 "ends" of Country Club Road. Ongoing review of land records indicates some potential challenges to this work. Review is ongoing to confirm the town right-of-way through this area and related ability to construct the connection. I will keep Council advised.

6. ARRA State Fiscal Stabilization Funds:

The proposed state budget funds approximately 14% of ECS monies through federal stimulus funds. For Glastonbury, 14% of the \$6.2 million ECS grant totals approximately \$868,000. Under the proposed state process, the 14% is to be forwarded directly to local Boards of Education and the Board must provide a detailed accounting of such State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) and report on the specific uses of those funds. Glastonbury's approved budget for the coming year incorporates ECS funds as a General Fund revenue. This includes the \$868,000+/- as part of the \$6.2 million ECS revenue budget.

The State Legislature enacted legislation allowing the local budget adopting authority to amend the local Board of Education budget by reducing approved funding by the amount of the SFSF funding. The balance would be funded through the SFSF funding.

In the alternative, Glastonbury could recognize that the \$868,000 was intended to be incorporated within the approved Board of Education budget and that the SFSF funds would be received and deposited to the General Fund. Under this approach, Council action would not be required and the Board would report on the applicable \$868,000 of its approved budget to comply with SFSF requirements.

Discussions continue on how to best handle and I will advise accordingly. Until the state adopts its budget, the specific dollar amount will not be known.

7. Communication Tower – Verizon:

As described at the July 20th public information hearing, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless is proposing a 110+/- foot communication tower at the Roman parcel, 1040 Main Street and a parcel located off Dayton Road. Siting Council procedures allow for a community comment period of not less than 60 days. This timeframe is triggered from the date the proposal is first communicated to a respective town. The notice from Verizon was received on June 17, 2009 and forwarded to Council at the June 23rd meeting. The initial 60 days ends on August 17th. I have talked with counsel for Verizon and written to request that any application to the Siting Council involving 1040 Main Street not be filed until mid September at the earliest. This request is supported by resident concern/interest in this matter, summer schedules, potential need to secure additional background information from Verizon, and to allow time for further Council/community review. I have also discussed with Council Leadership and the Siting Council. I will advise when Attorney Baldwin formally responds.

I will be happy to review the preceding and any other items Tuesday evening.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

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